

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 66, 78-80 and 82 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-82 are pending.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 68 and 70-73.

Claims 1-18, 66, 67, 69 and 77-82 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ethington (US 5,681,234) in view of Chapell (US 4,599,079). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

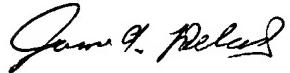
The applicant reiterates the arguments made in the previous response. Furthermore, independent claims 1, 66, 78-80 and 82 have been amended to clarify that the bracket apparatus is for mounting a separate self-contained control device (motor in claim 82), wherein the bracket base is dimensioned for supporting the control device (motor) such that the control device (motor) can be removed as a unit from the bracket base. Ethington discloses an automatic bicycle transmission wherein a power unit (50) is attached to a down tube (47) through clamp bands (65). The power unit (50) comprises a housing that houses actuators (48) and (54). The actuators (48, 54) comprise servo motors (112, 112') disposed in separate enclosed compartments formed by the housing. Servo motors (112, 112') have lead screws (116, 116') that extend through the intermediate interior housing wall and threadingly engage slides (122, 122') which, in turn, slide within guides (124, 124') fixedly mounted to the housing. Slides (122, 122') are connected to cables (66, 68) that exit through the exterior housing wall. There is no way actuators (48, 54) can be removed from housing (50) as a unit. Thus, Ethington neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter, and Chapell does not overcome the deficiencies of Ethington.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 has been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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